

REMARKS

Further to the Amendment in Response to Non-Final Office Action filed February 10, 2009, Applicants are filing this Supplemental Amendment.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the present application in view of the foregoing amendments to the pending claims and the following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-6 will be pending in the above-identified application upon entry of the present amendment. Claims 2-6 have been added. Support for new claim 2 can be found in the present specification, *inter alia*, at pages 5-8. Support for new claims 3-4 can be found in the present specification, *inter alia*, at pages 7-8. Support for new claim 5 can be found in the present specification, *inter alia*, at pages 12-18. Support for new claim 6 can be found in the present specification, *inter alia*, at page 12. No new matter has been added. Based upon the above considerations, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and allow the currently pending claims.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner states that the foreign patent documents referred to in the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) have been placed in the file but not considered due to some alleged deficiency. The Examiner alleges that the references not in English are not provided with a concise explanation of their relevance. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants' remarks regarding this issue were given in the Amendment in Response to Non-Final Office Action filed February 10, 2009. The remarks recited therein are hereby incorporated by reference.

Obviousness-type Double Patenting

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1, 2, and 4 of U.S. Patent No. 7,186,454.

Applicants request withdrawal of the outstanding rejection for the reasons given in the Amendment in Response to Non-Final Office Action filed February 10, 2009. The remarks recited therein are hereby incorporated by reference.

Issues under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Nagano et al. '858 (US 2004/0175858).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the reasons given in the Amendment in Response to Non-Final Office Action filed February 10, 2009. The remarks recited therein are hereby incorporated by reference.

Newly Proposed Claims 2-6

Applicants have newly proposed claims 2-6 in an effort to further define the scope of protection owed to Applicants. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-6 are allowable for the reasons given above. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 2-6 clearly define over the prior art of record, and an early action to this effect is earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

A full and complete response has been made to all issues as cited in the Office Action. Applicants have taken substantial steps in efforts to advance prosecution of the present application. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance issue for the present case clearly indicating that claims 1-6 are allowed and patentable under the provisions of title 35 of the United States Code.

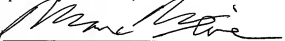
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad M. Rink, Reg. No. 58,258 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated:

MAR 24 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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